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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 23, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

Warren Christopher, Acting *W.C.*

Mexico. After talking with Cy and Charles Duncan, I have agreed to meet with Foreign Minister Castaneda in Mexico City on Wednesday, August 29 on the gas problem and other bilateral matters. (Cy will be returning to Washington the preceding evening.) I have tried to dispel in advance any notion that the United States might be able to meet Mexico's demands. Castaneda has responded in an equally cautious way. Not until after the Castaneda meeting will we be able to assess fully the pros and cons of your meeting with Lopez-Portillo later in September, and I will make sure that matter is left open.

Kampuchea. The Swedish Ambassador in Bangkok has informed us that the Pol Pot authorities have accepted virtually all conditions for an ICRC program to provide food to civilians under their control. The first shipment is to be delivered August 29. While press reports that the ICRC have reached agreement with the Vietnamese/Heng Samrin regime on an emergency relief program have been dismissed as "premature" by ICRC officials, they hope to reach agreement with the Phnom Penh authorities by the end of the month.

We have been approaching a number of key governments to generate pressure upon both Kampuchea regimes to cooperate with international relief efforts and to accept valid controls and monitoring. A large-scale

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relief effort with numerous representatives of international organizations on the ground in Kampuchea would not only reduce the danger of massive famine but could create movement toward a political solution, perhaps beginning with a ceasefire.

Soviets Deny Visa to Robert Bernstein. The Soviets have cancelled the visa they previously authorized for Robert Bernstein of Random House to attend the Moscow Book Fair in early September. This action is probably related to Bernstein's activities with the US Helsinki Watch Committee and to Soviet fears that he would meet with human rights activists while in Moscow. We have strongly urged the Soviets to reconsider the cancellation, and will call in the Soviet Charge tomorrow morning to reiterate our views.

Heating Oil for Iran. Rep. Dingell's Subcommittee on Energy and Power has scheduled hearings for September 5-6 to look into the granting of the Iranian kerosene export license. While our initial reading is that Dingell is likely to be sympathetic to the Administration position, we can expect hostility from other committee members. The Export Administration Act is scheduled for early September floor action, and amendments to prohibit similar exports to Iran are likely to be proposed.

Governor Carey's "Summit" on Northern Ireland. The British will shortly announce that they have decided not to attend Governor Carey's proposed "summit" on Northern Ireland. While the UK statement will acknowledge the deep interest of "the Irish people wherever they might be" in the problems of the province, it will conclude that the political future of Northern Ireland is a matter for negotiation between the UK government, Parliament, and the people of the province. We understand that Mrs. Thatcher took a personal interest in the preparation of this anticipated response.

Human Rights Complaint Against the US. The National Conference of Black Lawyers will present a

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petition to a sub-commission of the UN Human Rights Commission (HRC) next week, charging the US with maintaining a racially selective and repressive criminal justice system. Based on our response to this petition (which we prepared in conjunction with Justice), an HRC working group of experts has already concluded that the petition should not be considered further by the Commission. However, an unofficial group of international lawyers consulted by petitioners has asserted that there is some merit to petitioners' case, and petitioners will seek to use their report to counter the working group's conclusions and to generate additional publicity for their cause.

Argentina. The Soviets have sent a four-member military mission to Buenos Aires for a ten-day visit. The delegation, which is led by a general, is the highest-ranking such group to have visited Argentina in memory. While the Mission's official purpose is to inspect the Argentine Army's training facilities, the Soviets will probably use the occasion to follow up on their earlier offer to establish a training program for Argentine Army officers in the USSR. The Soviets are also expected to step up their efforts to sell arms to Argentina. Argentina will send a reciprocal mission to the USSR next month.

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